

student's best interest first and foremost that we do this.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce some guests, please, before Senator Labeledz speaks. Senator Conway has some guests in the south balcony. We have 24 fourth graders from Homer School in Homer, Nebraska, with their teacher. Will you folks please stand and be recognized. All of you students please stand. Thank you. Senator Landis has a group in the south balcony, also, from Trinity Lutheran School, sixth grade students from in Lincoln, 12 of them there are, with their teacher. Will you students and teacher please stand. Thank you. Senator Labeledz, please, followed by Senator Nelson. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do, and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The debate has ceased. Senator Withem, on your bracketing motion.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would like to close. I appreciate the discussion. If nothing else, today I think we have had a very good solid discussion on what 239CA is all about, and we have heard some of the frustrations that members of the body have about higher education sorts of issues. I would like to comment on a number of the things that were mentioned and then close on the bracket motion. First of all, Senator Goodrich, who I guess isn't here, made some reference to...some counsel to the body on what we ought to do is vote yes on the Bernard-Stevens, vote yes on the bracket, and then get to the Warner amendment, which is the same as 239CA. If anybody was listening to Senator Goodrich's characterization, I would like to ask you to reconsider what he had to say. They are really two radically different approaches. They both have the same goal in mind of providing some degree of coordination, but one of them is pure centralization which Senator Warner is talking about, which I favor over what we have in the status quo. What this proposal, 239, is I think is better than what Senator Warner has up, and I trust that he probably does, too. He can speak on that himself, but what we have with 239CA is centralized coordination with localized governance, which I think is a better sort of system. So they really aren't...it isn't a matter of just get through these silly procedural sorts of things and then get on to the real issue, as Senator Goodrich characterized it. I think what